

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection:

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that it "is unclear what the purpose of having a backing plate and fastener attaching to a lower surface of the printed circuit board. For examining purposes, the examiner assumes that having a backing plate and fastener attaching to a lower surface of the printed circuit board is to provide a stability and flexibility of the printed circuit board."

Page 5, lines 21-23 of the specification state: "The backing plate 108 provides support to the printed circuit device 104 to reduce the likelihood of damage to the printed circuit device 104 due to bending and the like." Page 5, lines 15-16 of the specification states: "In the illustrated embodiment, the backing plate 108 is attached to the lower surface 110 of the printed circuit device 104 by fasteners 112". In light of these sections of the specification, Applicant submits that the purpose of both the backing plate and the fastener as recited in the pertinent claims is clear. Accordingly, removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 9-14, 17-19, and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kudla, U.S. Patent 5,896,037. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims. Kudla teaches a test Adapter for actively testing chip package such as a ball grid array in operation with a printed circuit board are disclosed. The test adapter provides accessible test points for monitoring input and output signals of an operating chip package. The adapter includes an interface adapter board having a plurality of contact pads disposed on its surface, in a pattern corresponding to the

footprint of the chip package. A plurality of contact terminals protrude from the bottom of the interface adapter board and are connected to the contact pads on the upper surface, and are configured to engage a receiving socket mounted to a printed circuit board. A plurality of test pins are also connected to the contact pins such that test probes can be connected to the test pins and the input/output signals associated with the chip package can be monitored by the probes.

In contrast, Applicant teaches an apparatus for testing an integrated circuit. Independent claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

“wherein the apparatus is adapted to be disposed between the integrated circuit chip and a chip socket, such that the pins extending from the integrated circuit chip may be inserted through the printed circuit device and into the chip socket”
(Emphasis added)

Independent claim 11 recites a similar combination of features.

Kulda does not teach or suggest this combination of features. Applicant can find no teaching or suggestion anywhere in Kulda of an apparatus as recited in the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the standard for anticipation has not been met, and therefore respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection.

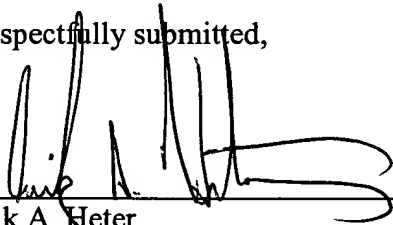
Claims 3-5, 8, 15-16 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kulda. For at least the reasons states above in regard to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection, Applicant submits that Kulda does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims. Accordingly, removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-49500/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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